



# VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION of CAMPUS LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATORS

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## Campus Safety Recommendations

July 25, 2013

The Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (VACLEA) recognizes that the safety and well-being of students, faculty and staff of institutions of higher education across the Commonwealth are a primary concern for all Virginians. The primary goal of our campus police chiefs and public safety directors is to strive for safe and secure campuses that foster the educational experience. The achievement of this goal ensures that our colleges and universities continue to enjoy strong enrollments that enrich our communities and support economic growth in the Commonwealth.

It is critical that our campus police departments and security agencies operate at the most professional level possible. Therefore, the members of VACLEA support a series of recommendations that we believe will direct our efforts to achieve our shared goals.

The Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators is committed to working with this task force and with the Virginia Center for School Safety to address these concerns, and specifically to identify those minimum standards that are critical for the professional operation of both campus police departments and campus security agencies.

### Recommendation #1 – Minimum Training Standards

- All campus police departments should be required to meet a set of minimal operational standards, set by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, in order to be certified as Virginia police departments. These minimal standards will guarantee uniformity of operations in campus police departments that will reduce risk liability and increase professional performance.
- Likewise, all campus security or public safety departments without law enforcement authority should be required to meet a set of minimal operational standards, set by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, in order to be certified as Virginia campus security or public safety agencies. These minimal standards will guarantee uniformity of operations in security and campus safety that will reduce risk liability and increase professional performance.

### Recommendation #2 – Best Practices and Policy Considerations

- As a proven best practice, every institution of higher education should have in place a formal Threat Assessment Team.